



February 28, 2023

Testimony in concern for S.B. 1096 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS.

Chairmen Currey, Ranking Member McCarty and Members of the Education Committee,

The CT Republican Assembly is an organization which has members and friends totalling over 500 Republicans and conservatives across the eight counties of Connecticut. We stand firm in our principles and unalienable Rights under the US Constitution, as well as the Rights and responsibilities within the Connecticut Constitution. I am Anne Manusky, 24 year Connecticut resident, former Licensed Professional Counselor, and current President of the CT Republican Assembly.

I also am a resident who has been following the change in Connecticut public education since 2008. Connecticut had reportedly one of the best public school systems in the country in the early 1990's. That is no longer.

The Connecticut public school system is ranked among the worst performing schools in the nation - as per the [Heritage Institute Freedom Report Card](#), the bottom fifth in rank with discrete variables: School Choice, Transparency, Regulatory Freedom and Spending.

NAEP - the national report card provides evidence that Connecticut public schools statistics on reading and math have devolved. <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Student-Assessment/NAEP/NAEP>
<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Press-Room/Press-Releases/2022/PR-75--Student-Assessment>

The reported state wide mastery test, the Smarter Balanced Assessments, have never been externally validated. Freedom of Information Hearing [FIC -2016-0224](#)
As Attorney Urban provided that one cannot prove a negative... that it doesn't exist?

Connecticut taxpayers have been paying a large sum of money every year for the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA/SBAC). Unfortunately the taxpayer and parents have been fleeced for as many years as this "test" has been given.

We are in need of thinking differently in education. Charter schools, while they exist in Connecticut, should have the approval process reviewed for improving the ability of individuals to create schools with good guidelines; best practices taken from states that are graduating proficient students.

Sincerely,

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President

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